

**Introduced by Senator Scott**

February 16, 2007

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An act to add Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 67050) to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 325, as introduced, Scott. Postsecondary education: California Postsecondary Education Accountability Act of 2007.

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and private, independent institutions of higher education as the 4 segments of postsecondary education in this state.

This bill would enact the California Postsecondary Education Accountability Act of 2007. A provision of the act would express the intent of the Legislature that a postsecondary education accountability reporting structure contain several prescribed elements. The bill would require the establishment of a statewide California Postsecondary Education Accountability (CPSEA) structure to provide the basis for an annual assessment of the progress made by the state's postsecondary education system in meeting the educational needs of Californians, and would specify certain data to be collected as part of the assessment.

The bill would require the board of governors and trustees, and urge the regents and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, to provide annual reports to the Legislature, the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), and the Governor, by

October 1 of each year, beginning October 1, 2008, to become part of the state accountability record. The bill would require that, in implementing the act, CPEC and other affected state agencies shall ensure that no additional mandates are imposed on local agencies.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 67050)  
2 is added to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code,  
3 to read:

4  
5 CHAPTER 12.5. CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
6 ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007  
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8 67050. (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited as  
9 the California Postsecondary Education Accountability Act of  
10 2007.

11 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

12 (1) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher Education  
13 in 1960, California's system of postsecondary education has  
14 provided access and high-quality educational opportunities that  
15 have fueled California's economic growth.

16 (2) A combination of factors now pose challenges for  
17 postsecondary education and for state policymakers in meeting  
18 the postsecondary education needs of Californians. Enrollment is  
19 growing, the demographics of the student body are changing, costs  
20 are rising, state support for postsecondary education is declining,  
21 student fees are increasing, access is being restricted, employers  
22 are expressing concerns about graduates' skills, and there is  
23 growing public demand to ensure that the state is making proper  
24 investments in postsecondary education.

25 (3) Although the public segments of postsecondary education  
26 have each developed their own institution-specific accountability  
27 efforts, they do not combine to reflect statewide policy goals that  
28 cut across all postsecondary education segments.

29 (4) In the absence of a statewide focus, the state has limited  
30 access to meaningful data that could serve as the basis for analysis

1 on how the state is performing in key areas, and must make  
2 important fiscal and policy decisions without that knowledge.

3 67051. It is the intent of the Legislature that a postsecondary  
4 education accountability reporting structure contain all of the  
5 following elements:

6 (a) Be focused and strategic in its purpose.

7 (b) Be used wisely to serve as a tool to improve educational  
8 outcomes for Californians.

9 (c) Be used to support effective, data-driven policy and fiscal  
10 decisions.

11 (d) Acknowledge that not everything about the whole person  
12 can be measured, including the intangible learning capacities that  
13 students gain from college attendance.

14 (e) Recognize that students enter the system with different levels  
15 of preparation.

16 (f) Be used to identify and eliminate unnecessary and redundant  
17 reports submitted to the state by the various educational agencies  
18 and institutions to save resources, improve efficiency, and allow  
19 institutions to focus on their efforts on meeting state policy goals  
20 and their own related institutional goals.

21 67052. The State of California shall establish a statewide  
22 California Postsecondary Education Accountability (CPSEA)  
23 structure that provides the basis for an annual assessment of the  
24 progress made by the state's system of postsecondary education  
25 in meeting the educational needs of Californians.

26 (a) This CPSEA structure shall identify a select number of key  
27 indicators that measure progress toward four statewide public  
28 policy goals for postsecondary education in the following areas:

29 (1) Educational Opportunity:

30 (A) This goal envisions that all Californians have reasonable  
31 and equal opportunities to attend college.

32 (B) To measure progress in achieving this goal, the California  
33 Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) shall collect and  
34 analyze data on all of the following:

35 (i) College readiness among high school graduates.

36 (ii) College readiness among adults, including adult basic skills  
37 proficiency levels.

38 (iii) College affordability.

39 (2) Participation:

1 (A) This goal envisions that California higher education will  
2 serve a large and diverse population.

3 (B) To measure progress in achieving this goal, CPEC shall  
4 collect and analyze data on all of the following:

- 5 (i) Postsecondary enrollment.
- 6 (ii) Capacity to serve eligible students.
- 7 (iii) Diversity of the college environment.

8 (3) Student Success:

9 (A) This goal envisions that California higher education will  
10 prepare students well for life and work.

11 (B) To measure progress in achieving this goal, CPEC shall  
12 collect and analyze data on all of the following:

13 (i) Student success in completion of their educational goals,  
14 including the use of available transition data.

15 (ii) Student learning, as measured by indirect and direct  
16 measures, with the segments having the primary responsibility for  
17 collecting and analyzing direct measures of learning, including  
18 student success in acquiring core competencies.

19 (iii) Student and employer satisfaction.

20 (4) Public Benefits:

21 (A) This goal envisions that California higher education will  
22 benefit the state and its people by providing meaningful  
23 participation in civic life and support of the state's economy.

24 (B) To measure progress in achieving this goal, CPEC shall  
25 collect and analyze data on all of the following:

- 26 (i) Personal income.
- 27 (ii) State economic development.
- 28 (iii) Social and civic life.

29 (b) The CPSEA structure shall establish a statewide reporting  
30 system that identifies a select number of key indicators to measure  
31 progress toward these state goals. The information provided by  
32 this system shall include all of the following:

33 (1) Statewide aggregate data, as described in this section.

34 (2) Regional data, reported by regions to be determined pursuant  
35 to advice from the CPSEA.

36 (3) Segmental data, provided by the public and independent  
37 nonprofit sectors pursuant to the process described in subdivision  
38 (a).

39 (4) A system-specific annual report to the Governor and the  
40 Legislature.

1 (c) The data for the indicators shall be collected statewide from  
2 a variety of sources, including information provided by the  
3 segments and the institutions within these segments. Each indicator  
4 shall provide information by race and ethnicity, gender, Cal Grant  
5 recipient status, and socioeconomic status, to the extent to which  
6 data is available. The indicators shall be adopted by OPEC, which  
7 shall consult with representatives from the higher education  
8 segments, state policymakers, the business community, and higher  
9 education students and faculty in the development, adoption, and  
10 revision of the indicators.

11 (d) The Board of Governors of the California Community  
12 Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University are  
13 required to, and the Regents of the University of California and  
14 the Association of Independent California Colleges and  
15 Universities are urged to, provide annual reports to the Legislature,  
16 the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and the  
17 Governor, by October 1 of each year, beginning October 1, 2008,  
18 to become part of the state accountability record. These annual  
19 reports shall provide a key link between the state postsecondary  
20 education accountability reporting structure and segmental  
21 accountability efforts.

22 67053. For the purposes of this chapter, the segments of  
23 postsecondary education are defined as the California Community  
24 Colleges, the California State University, the University of  
25 California, and the Association of Independent California Colleges  
26 and Universities.

27 67054. In implementing the requirements of this chapter, the  
28 California Postsecondary Education Commission and any other  
29 affected state agency shall ensure that no additional mandates are  
30 imposed on local agencies. Any new activities required to  
31 implement this chapter shall be offset by a commensurate reduction  
32 in other existing redundant or unnecessary information  
33 requirements.